

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1 (Currently amended) A sternal reconstruction system for securing parts of a sternum comprising:

a flexible cable having first and second ends;

a crimp fitting member having first and second portions, the first portion having a crimp shaft extending longitudinally from the second portion and being attached to the first end of the flexible cable, and the second portion having a crimp head and a hole in the crimp head that is perpendicular to the crimp shaft and adapted to slidably receive the second end of the flexible cable;

at least one cannulated screw having a cannulation adapted to slidably receive the first portion of the crimp fitting member; and

at least one reconstruction plate having at least one plate hole adapted to slidably receive the at least one cannulated screw or the first portion of the crimp fitting member.

2 (Currently amended) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 1, wherein the second portion of the crimp fitting member crimp head comprises a preinstalled flattened disk-like crimp head having a diameter of from about 2mm to about 10mm and a thickness of from about 0.1mm to about 4mm.

3 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 2, wherein the crimp fitting member is constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of titanium, alloys of titanium, stainless steel and resorbable materials.

4 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 2, wherein the crimp head is round.

5 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 2, wherein the crimp head is square, rectangular or other polygon shape.

6 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 2, wherein the crimp head comprises an upper surface and a lower surface.

7 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 6, wherein the upper surface of the crimp head has rounded edges.

8 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 6, wherein the lower surface of the crimp head is designed to mate with a top surface of the at least one cannulated screw or reconstruction plate.

9 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 6, wherein the lower surface of the crimp head is flat.

10 (Currently amended) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 2, wherein the hole in the crimp head second portion of the crimp fitting member extends diametrically across the crimp head.

11 (Canceled)

12 (Currently amended) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 6 [[2]], wherein the ~~first portion of the crimp fitting member comprises a crimp shaft, the crimp shaft extends extending~~ perpendicular to the lower surface of the crimp head fitting member.

13 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 12, wherein the crimp shaft is cylindrically shaped.

14 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 12, wherein the crimp shaft has a non-circular cross-section.

15 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 14, wherein the non-circular cross-section of the crimp shaft engages a non-circular recess formed in the at

least one cannulated screw and prevents rotation of the crimp fitting in the cannulation of the at least one cannulated screw.

16 (Currently amended) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 10 [[12]], wherein the crimp shaft extends perpendicularly from the ~~is located on the lower surface of the crimp head such that the perimeter of the lower surface of the crimp head surrounds the crimp shaft and provides an annular bearing surface.~~

17 (Currently amended) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 16, wherein the crimp shaft is surrounded by the lower surface of the crimp head such that the perimeter of the lower surface of the crimp head provides an annular bearing surface and the width of the annular bearing surface is from about 0.5mm to about 3mm.

18 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 12, wherein the crimp shaft is from about 0.7mm to about 4mm in diameter, and from about 1.5mm to about 4mm in length.

19 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 18, wherein the crimp shaft is sized and shaped so as to fit within the cannulation or the at least one plate hole.

20 (Currently amended) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 1, wherein the flexible cable having first and second ends is ~~selected from the group consisting of a single strand wire and a multi-wire stranded cable.~~

21 (Currently amended) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 1 [[20]], wherein the flexible cable is Cerclage wire.

22 (Canceled)

23 (Currently amended) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 1 [[22]], wherein the second end of the cable further comprises a suture.

24 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 23, wherein the suture is constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of titanium, alloys of titanium and stainless steel.

25 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 23, wherein the suture is designed to be removable.

26 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 1, wherein the flexible cable is constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of titanium, alloys of titanium, stainless steel and resorbable materials.

27 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 1, wherein the reconstruction plate has a longitudinal axis and comprises an upper and a lower surface, and the at least one plate hole passes through the upper and lower surfaces and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis for receiving a bone anchor, the at least one reconstruction plate further including at least one bore disposed transverse to the generally perpendicularly disposed plate hole.

28 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 1, further comprising at least two reconstruction plates.

29 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 27, wherein the at least one reconstruction plate comprises a plurality of holes passing through the upper and lower surfaces and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis for receiving bone anchors.

30 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 29, further comprising a plurality of bores disposed transverse to the generally perpendicularly disposed plate holes.

31 (Original): The sternal reconstruction system of claim 30, wherein the plurality of holes passing through the upper and lower surfaces and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis are round and cylindrical.

32 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 30, wherein the plurality of bores disposed transverse to the generally perpendicularly disposed plate holes are round and cylindrical.

33 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 31, wherein the plurality of holes passing through the upper and lower surfaces and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis are countersunk toward either the upper or the lower surfaces of the reconstruction plate.

34 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 31, wherein the plurality of holes passing through the upper and lower surfaces and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis are countersunk toward both the upper and the lower surfaces of the reconstruction plate.

35 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 34, wherein the plurality of holes are countersunk in the shape of a cone.

36 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 29, wherein the generally perpendicular plate holes are each independently angled at a solid angle of from 0° to about 30° from normal to the upper and lower surfaces of the reconstruction plate.

37 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 36, wherein the generally perpendicular plate holes are each independently angled at an angle of from 0° to about 30° from normal to the upper and lower surfaces of the reconstruction plate and along the longitudinal axis.

38 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 36, wherein the generally perpendicular holes are normal to the upper and lower surfaces of the reconstruction plate.

39 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 30, wherein the generally transverse bores are each independently angled at a solid angle of from 0° to about 30° from normal to side surfaces of the reconstruction plate.

40 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 39, wherein the generally transverse bores are each independently angled at an angle of from 0° to about 30° from normal to the side surfaces of the reconstruction plate and transverse to the longitudinal axis.

41 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 39, wherein the generally transverse bores are normal to the side surfaces of the reconstruction plate.

42 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 29, wherein the plurality of generally perpendicular plate holes are configured to lock with a bone fastener.

43 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 31, wherein the upper and lower surfaces of the reconstruction plate are planar.

44 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 31, wherein the reconstruction plate is constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of titanium, alloys of titanium, stainless steel, resorbable materials, radio-translucent materials, allograft materials and resorbable materials.

45 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 1, wherein the at least one cannulated screw is selected from the group consisting of a locking and a non-locking screw.

46 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 45, wherein the at least one cannulated screw is at least partially threaded for attachment to bone.

47 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 45, wherein the at least one cannulated screw is constructed from a material selected from the group consisting of titanium, alloys of titanium, stainless steel and resorbable materials.

48 (Original) The sternal reconstruction system of claim 45, wherein the at least one cannulated screw comprises a head having a top surface, wherein the top surface may be curved, substantially flat or have other complex geometry.

49 (Withdrawn) A flexible cable for sternal reconstruction, the cable having first and second ends, wherein the first end of the cable comprises a crimp fitting member, and wherein the crimp fitting member comprises a flattened disk-like head.

50 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 49, wherein the crimp fitting member comprises a flattened disk-like crimp head having a diameter of from about 2mm to about 10mm and a thickness of from about 0.1mm to about 4mm.

51 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 50, wherein the crimp head comprises an upper surface and a lower surface.

52 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 51, wherein the lower surface of the crimp head is flat.

53 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 50, wherein the crimp head comprises a diametrical hole.

54 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 53, wherein the diametrical hole is sized so as to accommodate the flexible cable.

55 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 50, wherein the crimp fitting member further comprises a crimp shaft, the crimp shaft extending perpendicular to the lower surface of the crimp fitting.

56 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 55, wherein the crimp shaft is cylindrically shaped.

57 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 55, wherein the crimp shaft has a non-circular cross-section.

58 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 55, wherein the crimp shaft is located on the lower surface of the crimp head such that the perimeter of the lower surface of the crimp head surrounds the crimp shaft and provides an annular bearing surface.

59 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 58, wherein the width of the annular bearing surface is from about 0.5mm to about 3mm.

60 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 55, wherein the crimp shaft is from about 0.7mm to about 4mm in diameter, and from about 1.5mm to about 4mm in length.

61 (Withdrawn) The flexible cable of claim 60, wherein the crimp shaft is sized and shaped so as to fit within a cannulated screw or bone reconstruction plate.

62 (Withdrawn) A method for sternal reconstruction, comprising the steps of:
wrapping a flexible cable having first and second ends around the sternum;
tensioning the flexible cable to a desired tension; and
securing the tensioned cable;
wherein the first end of the cable comprises a crimp fitting member, and
wherein the crimp fitting member comprises a flattened disk-like head.

63 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 62, wherein the tensioned cable is secured by crimping a ferrule onto the flexible cable.

64 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 63, wherein the inner diameter of the ferrule comprises a sharp edge in order to facilitate the cutting of the flexible cable during crimping of the ferrule onto the flexible cable.

65 (Withdrawn) A method for sternal reconstruction, comprising the steps of:
attaching at least one cannulated screw into the sternum;
feeding a flexible cable having first and second ends through the lumen of the at least one cannulated screw;
wrapping the flexible cable around the sternum;
tensioning the flexible cable to a desired tension; and
securing the tensioned cable,
wherein the first end of the cable comprises a crimp fitting member, and
wherein the crimp fitting member comprises a flattened disk-like head.

66 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 65, wherein the tensioned cable is secured by crimping a ferrule onto the flexible cable.

67 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 66, wherein the inner diameter of the ferrule comprises a sharp edge in order to facilitate the cutting of the flexible cable during crimping of the ferrule onto the flexible cable.

68 (Withdrawn) A method for sternal reconstruction comprising the steps of:
attaching at least one reconstruction plate to a sternum using cannulated screws;

feeding a flexible cable having first and second ends through the lumen of at least one cannulated screw and/or through the at least one hole disposed transverse to the generally perpendicularly disposed plate hole, wherein the first end of the cable comprises a crimp fitting member, and wherein the crimp fitting member comprises a flattened disk-like head;

tensioning the flexible cable to a desired tension; and
securing the tensioned cable.

69 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, wherein the tensioned cable is secured by crimping a ferrule onto the flexible cable.

70 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 69, wherein the inner diameter of the ferrule comprises a sharp edge in order to facilitate the cutting of the flexible cable during crimping of the ferrule onto the flexible cable.

71 (Withdrawn) A method for sternal reconstruction comprising the steps of:
attaching at least one reconstruction plate to a sternum using cannulated screws, wherein said reconstruction plate has a longitudinal axis and comprises an upper and a lower surface, and at least one hole passing through the upper and lower surfaces and generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis for receiving a fastener head, the at least one reconstruction plate further including at least one bore disposed transverse to the generally perpendicularly disposed plate hole;

feeding flexible cable having first and second ends through the lumen of at least one cannulated screw and/or through the at least one hole disposed transverse to the generally perpendicularly disposed plate hole, wherein the first end of the cable comprises a crimp fitting member, and wherein the crimp fitting member comprises a flattened disk-like head;

tensioning the flexible cable to a desired tension; and
securing the tensioned cable.

72 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein at least one reconstruction plate is attached to the sternum on opposite sides of the sternal fragments

73 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 71, wherein the tensioned cable is secured by crimping a ferrule onto the flexible cable.

74 (Withdrawn) The method of claim 73, wherein the inner diameter of the ferrule comprises a sharp edge in order to facilitate the cutting of the flexible cable during crimping of the ferrule onto the flexible cable.

75 (Currently amended) A sternal reconstruction kit comprising:

a plurality of flexible cables, each of the plurality of flexible cables having a first end and a second end;

a plurality of crimp fitting members, each of the plurality of crimp fitting members having first and second portions, the first portion of each of the plurality of crimp fitting members having a crimp shaft extending longitudinally from the second portion and being attached to the first end of one of the plurality of flexible cables, and the second portion of each of the plurality of crimp fitting members having a crimp head and a hole in the crimp head that is perpendicular to the crimp shaft and adapted to slidably receive the second end of one of the plurality of flexible cables;

a plurality of cannulated screws having different shapes or sizes, each of the plurality of cannulated screws having a cannulation adapted to slideably receive the first portion of one of the plurality of crimp fittings; and

a plurality of reconstruction plates having different shapes or sizes, each of the plurality of reconstruction plates having at least one plate hole adapted to slidably receive one of the plurality of cannulated screws or the first portion of one of the plurality of crimp fittings.

76 (Canceled)

77 (Previously presented) The sternal reconstruction kit of claim 75, wherein second end of one of the plurality of flexible cables is attached to a suture.

78 (Canceled)

79 (Currently amended) The sternal reconstruction kit of claim 75, wherein the hole in the crimp head of at least one crimp fitting member extends diametrically through the crimp head further comprising at least one ferrule.

80 (Currently amended) The sternal reconstruction kit of claim 79, further comprising at least one ferrule and wherein the at least one ferrule is adapted to be crimped onto one of the plurality of flexible cables, and the inner diameter of the at least one ferrule comprises a sharp edge in order to facilitate the cutting of one of the plurality of flexible cables during crimping of the ferrule.